

Art Unit: 3695

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in reply to the Applicant's response filed on 02 March 2009.
2. Claims 1-23 remain cancelled.
3. Claims 24, 35, and 36 have been amended.
4. Claims 24-41 are currently pending and have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

5. The Information Disclosure Statements filed on 07 January 2009, 21 January 2009, 23 January 2009, 24 April 2009, and 15 May 2009 have been considered. Initialed copies of the Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

Art Unit: 3695

Response to Arguments

6. **Prior Art**

7. The Applicant's arguments are considered moot, in view of the new grounds of rejection presented below, necessitated by the Applicant's substantial amendments to the claimed invention.

Art Unit: 3695

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 24-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Allen et al.*, US Patent No. 7,280,645 (*hereinafter Allen*), in view of, *Black*, US Patent No. 7,117,172 (*hereinafter Black*), in further view of *Sarcanin*, US Patent No. 6,941,285 (*hereinafter Sarcanin*).

As per claim 24

Allen teaches:

- A computer readable datastore associated with a server, said server hereinafter referred to as a wallet server, wherein a master copy of a wallet comprising computer readable storage representing a usage allowance, hereinafter master wallet, is stored (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- A plurality of logical servers which are logical partitions of said wallet server (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- A plurality of computer readable logical datastores which are logical partitions of said datastore wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to: (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
 - o Create said master wallet for a set of users (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
 - o Configure each of said plurality of logical servers and their associated logical datastores for a subset of said set of users (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
 - o Configure each of said plurality of logical servers and their associated logical datastores for a subset of said set of users (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)

Art Unit: 3695

- Allocate a plurality of independent subsets of said master wallet, each of said subsets hereinafter referred to as a shadow wallet, wherein each shadow wallet is associated with one of said plurality of logical servers and its associated logical datastore (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- Configure each of said plurality of logical servers, to process a request received by said system for a given user from said subset of users against said shadow wallet associated with said given user (see at least column 1, lines 51-61)
- Monitor usage across all of the shadow wallets derived from said master wallet

Allen does not teach:

- Allocating a plurality of independent subsets of said master wallet, prior to an event arrival including a request
- Automatically adjusting the usage allowances subdivided across said shadow wallets in anticipation of expected future use of said shadow wallets

Black teaches:

- Automatically adjusting resources in a sub-account linked to a master account based on historical usage and current data regarding the usage of the accounts (see at least column 44, lines 7-50; column 50, line 18 - column 51, line 62)

Sarcanin teaches:

- Allocating a plurality of independent subsets of said master wallet, prior to an event arrival including a request (see at least column 49, line 53 - column 50, line 30)

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add to the teachings of Allen, the automatic account adjustments of Black and the initial subset account allocation of Sarcanin. One would have been motivated to do so because merely applying a known technique to a known method ready for improvement does not render the instant application patentably distinct over the prior art. The teachings of Allen, Black, and Sarcanin, are independently functional whether used individually or in combination. As such, the combination would yield a predictable result. Therefore, combining these well known elements would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art (see MPEP 2141).

Art Unit: 3695

As per claim 25

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 24, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to configure said logical servers to notify said wallet server as the usage allowance allocated to a given shadow wallet is consumed (see at least column 6, lines 40-49)

As per claim 26

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 25, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to create an additional shadow wallet (see at least column 6, lines 50-59)

As per claim 27

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 26, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to reallocate said master wallet across said shadow wallets associated with said master wallet (see at least column 6, lines 50-59)

As per claim 28

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 27, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Configure a given logical server to automatically request an additional usage allowance when a first shadow wallet reaches a predetermined minimum usage allowance (see at least column 6, lines 50-59)
- Receive said request for additional usage allowance (see at least column 6, lines 50-59)
- Allocate a subset of any unclaimed usage allowance from said master wallet to said first shadow wallet (see at least column 1, lines 51-61; column 6, lines 50-59)

Art Unit: 3695

As per claim 29

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 28, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to reclaim an unused portion of said usage allowance allocated to a second shadow wallet and reallocate said unused portion to said first shadow wallet (see at least column 1, lines 51-61)

As per claim 30

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 29, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Wherein said automatic reallocation reduces the number of automatic requests made by a given logical server for additional usage allowance (see at least column 1, lines 51-61)

As per claim 31

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 24, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Wherein said master wallet includes a set of conditions pertaining to the access of said master wallet that are passed onto any shadow wallets associated with said master wallet (see at least column 1, lines 62-67)

As per claim 32

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 31, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Wherein said set of conditions are automatically determined by a product purchased by a user (see at least column 3, lines 24-34)

Art Unit: 3695

As per claim 33

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 32, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Wherein said set of conditions includes a validity period (see at least column 3, lines 24-34)

As per claim 34

Allen/Black/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 24, as described above.

Black further teaches:

- Wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to, upon the failure of any of said plurality of logical servers, their associated logical datastores or said shadow wallets, hereinafter a failed logical component, create a new logical component to replace said failed component (see at least column 36, lines 23-39)

10. Claims 35, 36, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Allen*, in view of *Sarcanin*.

As per claim 35

Allen teaches:

- A computer readable datastore associated with a server, said server hereinafter referred to as a wallet server, wherein a master copy of a wallet comprising computer readable storage representing a usage allowance, hereinafter master wallet, is stored (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- A plurality of logical servers which are logical partitions of said wallet server (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- A plurality of computer readable logical datastores which are logical partitions of said datastore wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to: (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
 - o Create said master wallet for a set of users (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)

Art Unit: 3695

- Configure each of said plurality of logical servers and their associated logical datastores for a subset of said set of users (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- Assign a service level to each of said logical servers (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- Allocate a plurality of independent subsets of said master wallet, each of said subsets hereinafter referred to as a shadow wallet, wherein each shadow wallet is associated with one of said plurality of logical servers and its associated logical datastore (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- Determine a service level associated with a request received by said system and distribute said request to a particular logical server associated with said service level and configure said particular logical server, to process a request received by said system for a first user from said subset of users against said shadow wallet associated with said first user (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)

Allen does not teach:

- Allocating a plurality of independent subsets of said master wallet, prior to an event arrival including a request

Sarcanin teaches:

- Allocating a plurality of independent subsets of said master wallet, prior to an event arrival including a request (see at least column 49, line 53 - column 50, line 30)

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add to the teachings of Allen, the initial subset account allocation of Sarcanin. One would have been motivated to do so because merely applying a known technique to a known method ready for improvement does not render the instant application patentably distinct over the prior art. The teachings of both Allen and Sarcanin, are independently functional whether used individually or in combination. As such, the combination would yield a predictable result. Therefore, combining these well known elements would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art (see MPEP 2141).

Art Unit: 3695

As per claim 36***Allen teaches:***

- A computer readable datastore associated with a server, said server hereinafter referred to as a wallet server, wherein a master copy of a wallet comprising computer readable storage representing a usage allowance, hereinafter master wallet, is stored (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- A plurality of logical servers which are logical partitions of said wallet server (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
- A plurality of computer readable logical datastores which are logical partitions of said datastore wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to: (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
 - o Create said master wallet for a set of users (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
 - o Configure each of said plurality of logical servers and their associated logical datastores for a subset of said set of users (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
 - o Subdivide said master wallet into a plurality of independent shadow wallets, wherein each shadow wallet is associated with one of said plurality of logical servers and its associated logical datastore (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)
 - o Process a plurality of requests against said master wallet by configuring each of said plurality of logical servers, to process a request received by said system for a given user from said subset of users against said shadow wallet associated with said given user (see at least column 6, lines 10-59)

Allen does not teach:

- Allocating a plurality of independent subsets of said master wallet, prior to an event arrival including a request

Sarcanin teaches:

- Allocating a plurality of independent subsets of said master wallet, prior to an event arrival including a request (see at least column 49, line 53 - column 50, line 30)

Art Unit: 3695

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add to the teachings of Allen, the initial subset account allocation of Sarcanin. One would have been motivated to do so because merely applying a known technique to a known method ready for improvement does not render the instant application patentably distinct over the prior art. The teachings of both Allen and Sarcanin, are independently functional whether used individually or in combination. As such, the combination would yield a predictable result. Therefore, combining these well known elements would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art (see MPEP 2141).

As per claim 41

Allen/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 36, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to configure said plurality of logical servers to process a query in isolation from said wallet server (see at least column 1, lines 51-61)

11. Claims 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Allen/Sarcanin*, in further view of *OFFICIAL NOTICE*.

As per claim 37

Allen/Sarcanin teaches the system of claim 36, as described above.

Allen/Sarcanin do not explicitly teach:

- Setting a flag to indicate a state relating to said master wallet

The Examiner has previously taken OFFICIAL NOTICE that status flags in a computer system are well known in a variety of workflow applications. The Applicant has not attempted to challenge such assertion, rendering such assertion prior art, henceforth.

Art Unit: 3695

As per claim 38

Allen/Sarcanin/OFFICIAL NOTICE teaches the system of claim 37, as described above.

Allen/Sarcanin do not explicitly teach:

- Setting a flag to indicate that an additional usage allowance is not available from said master wallet

The Examiner has previously taken OFFICIAL NOTICE that status flags in a computer system are well known in a variety of workflow applications. The Applicant has not attempted to challenge such assertion, rendering such assertion prior art, henceforth.

As per claim 39

Allen/Sarcanin/OFFICIAL NOTICE teaches the system of claim 38, as described above.

Allen/Sarcanin do not explicitly teach:

- Wherein said wallet server further comprises computer executable instructions to set a corresponding flag on each of said shadow wallets derived from said master wallet to inform said associated logical servers that the master wallet is exhausted in order to limit repeated requests by said associated logical servers for additional usage allowance

The Examiner has previously taken OFFICIAL NOTICE that status flags in a computer system are well known in a variety of workflow applications. The Applicant has not attempted to challenge such assertion, rendering such assertion prior art, henceforth.

As per claim 40

Allen/Sarcanin/OFFICIAL NOTICE teaches the system of claim 37, as described above.

Allen further teaches:

- Replenishing a usage account by a user associated with a product purchased by the user (see at least column 5, lines 28-40)

Art Unit: 3695

Sarcanin further teaches:

- Automatic periodic usage allowance replenishment (see at least column 49, line 53 - column 50, line 30)

Art Unit: 3695

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas M. Hammond III whose telephone number is 571-270-1829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Kyle can be reached on 571-272-6746. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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US Patent & Trademark Office
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Application/Control Number: 10/682,663

Page 15

Art Unit: 3695

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